

April 14, 2016  
Middlesex Municipal Building

The meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held on the above date at the Middlesex Borough Hall and called to order by Chairman Dan Gitler.

"This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law in that the requirements of the law have been met by the Annual Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on December 11, 2015"

Members: Jason Bond (absent)  
Dan Gitler  
Sean Johnson  
Jim Gorman  
John Madden, liaison (absent)

Secretary Linda Chismar

Chairman Gitler opened the meeting to the public. Seeing that there was no further public participation, Chairman Gitler closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mr. Gitler made a motion to approve the March 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Mr. Gitler moved to accept the March, 2016 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

#### Communications

1. 303 Ashland Road – Commission agreed to remove the tree in the front of the residence that is leaning and replant another tree in the area of the removal.
2. 421 Fairview Avenue – Commission feels that nothing is needed to be done on this tree, as it is healthy and was recently pruned.
3. 61 Louis Avenue – Commission agreed to remove this small Norway maple and replace the tree.
4. 19 Shearn Drive – Commission agreed to prune this tree that is dropping branches and clear the wires.

5. 119 Fairview Avenue – Commission agreed to thin and prune the tree that has roots that are growing under the sidewalk. The commission also indicated that the resident can lift the sidewalk and cut the roots if it is uplifting sidewalk.
6. 106 Cap Lane – Mr. Gitler will go out to look at the tree in the front of this property that resident has requested be removed.
7. 424 Giles Avenue – Commission has agreed that the tree in front of this property is healthy and should be crown cleaned.
8. 135 Lincoln Boulevard (Corner of A Street) – Commission indicated that nothing is needed on the big pear tree in front of this business. They can trim roots under sidewalk if needed.
9. 417 Runyon Avenue – Commission will go out to look at the tree in front of the house that is dropping branches.
10. 425 Runyon Avenue – Commissioners will go out to property to look at the two trees that resident feels might be dead.
11. 215 Harris Avenue – Resident would like commissioners to look at her uprooting sidewalk. Commission will go out to look at this tree.

#### Work Agenda

1. 220 Green Avenue – Commission recommended that a re-inspection should be done in the Spring to make an accurate assessment.
2. 300 John Street – Commission agreed to grind stump, but will go out in the Spring to check on the tree that resident feels is dead.
3. 220 Chestnut Street – Mr. Gitler did not see any evidence of infestation of carpenter ants, but commission agreed to table until next month to look again at the tree.
4. 421 North Lincoln Avenue – Mr. Bond will go out to look at the shade tree in the front of this property that had a blue ribbon and resident feels is dead.
5. 125 Fourth Street – Mr. Bond will check the tree on the side of this property that resident requested be removed as it is dropping branches.
6. 119 Green Avenue – Mr. Gitler will look at the tree that resident feels is dead and report back.
7. 800 Beechwood Avenue – Commission has agreed to look at the black locust tree in the front of this property that resident felt had caused his sewer problem.

#### Unfinished Business

1. Increase of Fines when Removing Trees – An e-mail was sent to Council Liaison regarding increasing the fines in the borough ordinance. The Commission is

concerned as a number of borough trees have been removed without Commission permission. Commissioner Gitler will follow up on this request.

2. Update of Tree Management Plan – Mr. Bond was absent, so no update was done. This will be discussed further at the May 12, 2016 Meeting.

#### New Business

1. Planting of Arbor Day Tree – Commission discussed planting a Southern Magnolia Tree for Arbor Day in the front of Victor Crowell Park, adjacent to the 911 Memorial in the grassy area. The stake for the tree was removed, and Mr. Gorman will stake out the location again, and the secretary will notify Boltzer Landscaping that the Purchase Order has been approved and he can move forward with planting at this location.
2. New Quotes for Tree Planting for Spring, 2016 – Commission received one quote and the Commissioners will solicit for another quote for the planting of 30 trees (Spring & Fall) for 2016. The Purchasing Agent will approve before this is done.
3. Commissioners discussed the purchasing of Elm Trees from the Elm Society over a 5 year period. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.
4. Mr. Johnson will be spearheading the planting of “whips” or saplings in the borough and will follow up at the May 12, 2016 Meeting.

Mr. Gitler moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY,  
MAY 12, 2016 – 7:30 PM  
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call Linda at 732-356-7400, Ext. 238

